Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: BUDGET VOTE AT NAPLES CITY ADMINISTRATION

1. SUMMARY: THE BUDGET FOR THE NAPLES CITY ADMINISTRATION WAS APPROVED MARCH 4 WITH 41 OUT OF 80 VOTES. THE 41ST VOTE, THE ONE THAT KEPT THE CURRENT LEFT GIUNTA IN POWER CAME FROM THE DC AND WAS ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE AS A "TECHNICAL VOTE. NAPLES HAS TOO MANY PROBLEMS FOR ANYONE GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO BRINGING THE LEFTIST GIUNTA DOWN NOW. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BUDGET OF THE NAPLES CITY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY 41 OUT OF 80 VOTES. VOTING IN FAVOR WERE 29 PCI, 5 PSI, 5 PSDI, 1 PDUP, 2 PRI, AND 1 DC (A "TECHNICAL" VOTE). ABSTAINING WERE THE PLI (1 VOTE), AN INDEPENDENT (1) AND THE DN (4). THERE WERE 23 DC

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VOTES AND 10 MSI VOTES AGAINST. THE "TECHNICAL" DC VOTE IN FAVOR RESULTED FROM A DELIBERATE POLICY DECISION OF THE NEAPOLITAN DC STRUCTURE, ACTING MORE OR LESS IN CONCERT.

3. THE MAJORITY OF THE DC ON THE NAPLES CITY COUNCIL IS DOROTEO AND THIS EQUATES TO ANTONIO GAVA IN THE NEAPOLITAN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT. ORIGINALLY THE WORD WAS PASSED THAT GAVA WAS AGAINST APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET, BUT HE QUIETLY REVERSED HIS FIELD WHEN HIS STANCE WAS CHALLENGED BY OTHER DC CURRENTS IN THE AREA, PARTICULARLY THE ANDREOTTIANIS. A DEFEAT OF THE BUDGET WOULD HAVE MEANT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISSOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND NEW ELECTIONS WHICH NO ONE WANTS, PARTICULARLY THE PUBLIC. MOREOVER, FOR THEIR PART THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR RAPPORT WITH ALL THE PARTIES, EXCEPT THE MSI AND GAVA ALWAYS HAS TO THINK TWICE BEFORE THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND AND RISKING DC DEFECTIONS.

4. THE NAPLES DC PROVINCIAL CONGRESS IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 12 AND 13. GAVA'S MOVE ON THE BUDGET UNDOUBTEDLY WAS MADE WITH AN EYE ON

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